Team Evolution Press Release: Darcie Mead dominates New Years races
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During the first week of January, ski teams from all over Great Britain and Europe converged to participate in an intense week of alpine racing. Les Houches, France, played host to the Anglo-Scottish Championships at the start of the New Years week where 158 skiers aged 12-15 raced in both the Slalom and Giant Slalom events. Darcie Mead (14), representing Team Evolution, took the challenge of the first days slalom in her stride and won the Overall Championship Title in the Female category.

On the second day of competition the cold weather ensured that the track stayed in excellent condition from the first racer to the last, and clear sky and sunshine meant perfect visibility. Darcie Mead again took advantage of the excellent conditions and put down an exceptional first run, recording the winning time by 0.87 seconds. A huge mistake in the top section of the course during second run cost Darcie some of her advantage, but with a strong show of agility she held it together to win Overall Female.

After 2 successful days of racing in Les Houches the majority of competitors traveled to Champoluc, Italy, for a day of recovery before another two days of racing at the B.A.R.S.C. Championships. The conditions were again flawless, meaning a pristine track for all the racers and the opportunity to shine against a strong peer group.

In the BARSC GS, Darcie continued her rich vein of form on the first run, especially through the sections that other competitors struggled with, displaying a maturity to handle with the slope undulations that is uncommon in an athlete so young. Heading into the second run full of confidence, the young British Team skier again skied really well through the coaches section, but pushed her limits a little too hard in the lower section of the course, ending her run prematurely with a spectacular crash that resulted in equipment strewn across the piste.
Luckily Darcie was unhurt from the incident and was recovered suitably to ski in the final race, her favoured Slalom event on the final day of the BARSC Championships. The race featured two extremely challenging courses that saw many of the field not finish either run, and several other top athletes make huge mistakes effectively costing them their chance of a podium. By adapting and changing tactics to suit the conditions, Darcie was again able to show she has developed to a level above the competition and ski a smart but aggressive line, enabling her to again win the Children 2 Female category and finish a clear 1.5 seconds ahead of her nearest rival.

Darcie will now travel to Andorra and France for International competitions throughout January, before returning to train with her team mates at Team Evolution in Austria prior to the English National Championships in February. Darcie is a member of the British Children’s Ski Team and follows a year round program with Team Evolution, ensuring she is on the performance pathway for success.

For further information on Darcie Mead, or accompanying photos, please email Team Evolution.

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Some photos may be found by clicking here